

# RED CHINA SLOWS COMMUNE SYSTEM

**Cadres Cautioned Against Haste in Placing Peasants Under Rigid Control**

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HONG KONG, Sept. 15.—The Chinese Communists are proceeding somewhat more slowly in the formation of peasant communes than they had initially from Peking, and thus new system seemed, to indicate, a month ago.

Recent information from the capital of Communist China reports that cadres are being cautioned not to be too hasty in setting up communes.

Officials of rural areas are being reminded that the giving up of collectively owned and individual rural property involved in establishing half-fledged communes must proceed carefully. In particular they are being told that the process of organizing peasants into communes must not interfere with the gathering of this autumn's harvest.

The directives to the cadres note that it may take four to five years to complete the commune program. Officials are being told that the present collective ownership of farms need not be abolished immediately if this seems undesirable. As an initial step toward forming communes, the officials are being informed, supervisory committees to coordinate activities of groups of collectives can function for a considerable time.

#### Resistance Indicated

Observers here believe the note of deliberation now being struck regarding the communes indicates that the Communists have encountered some peasant resistance to the program. They also believe that there are organizational complexities that require careful consideration.

However, there is nothing to indicate that Peking is not pushing the program with vigor and determination, and that great progress has not been achieved.

A Hsinhua (New China) News Agency dispatch from Peking Tuesday said that 10,000 communes had been set up so far, incorporating more than 30 percent of the country's 500,000,000 peasants. All peasants of eight populous provinces, Manchuria, Liaoning, Hopei, Shantung, Tsinghai, Shantung, Henan-Kiang and Kwangsi, are in communes, the report said.

Probably only a small minority of the communes so far established incorporate all the characteristics laid down for a full-fledged commune.

The communes are the most radical reorganization ever taken by any country in the Communist plan so far.

#### Holdings Are Merged

Under the regulations for a full-fledged commune, a few thousand to 10,000 peasant households merge their farm collectives into an organization that takes over all collective property as well as the small plots, tools, livestock and fowls the peasants have been permitted to keep individually up to now. Instead of splitting up the income of the collective as heretofore, the peasants go on a fixed wage system.

Family and individual household living virtually disappears. The commune members eat in central mess halls and live in communal housing. Nurseries take care of the children and the women do full-time work in the fields along with the men.

All means of production and all labor belong to the commune. It not only farms the large area under its control but builds and manages industries, handles trade and banking, and runs schools, irrigation systems, hospitals, posts and the telegraph.

The managements of the hsiang (township) and of the communes become one and the same. The organization is along military lines and the commune arm and incorporate able-bodied persons into the militia.

Wages can be cut or bonuses given in accordance with the work enthusiasm of the members. Labor groups can be shifted from farm to factory or to distant construction projects whenever the commune directors will.

#### Control Is Tight

The communes will be under tight Communist party rule and operate within the framework of over-all policies and plans laid down in Peking. The commune members have the right to elect commune congresses and lower-level bodies, but the elections will be strictly controlled. The system is regarded as likely to spread eventually into the cities.

Peking is believed to have decided to establish the communes to improve its control and increase the state's share of production, particularly of agricultural output. Under the farm collectives, the members benefited to some extent from bigger crops through sharing what was left after state collections. Under the communes, the wage system will limit the workers to fixed incomes.

The communes also will help the Government with its program of increasing local industries, and facilitate the mobility and control of labor. They will add tens of millions of women for full work away from home by freeing them from household tasks.

Prototypes of the first communes were formed last April, but little publicity was given to them at that time. In July, Peking had decided they were feasible and a great campaign of organizing and spreading them was launched.